



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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**MODEL SUSMP APPROVED BY REGIONAL WATER
QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

San Diego -- June 17, 2002 - On Wednesday, June 12, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, which is responsible for the regulations that keep San Diego's waters clean, unanimously approved the model Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) for the San Diego region. The model SUSMP will be the guide for all new development within the region.

The SUSMP plan is a collaborative effort of the City of San Diego, environmentalists, the building industry, and engineering community and Regional Board staff. The City of San Diego must apply SUSMP requirements to larger development and redevelopment projects by early December.

"This plan will change how we build and redevelop to reduce polluted runoff from urban areas and properties," explains Deputy Director Karen Henry.

"The key element of Wednesday's vote," adds Henry "is that the Board approved an innovative method to incorporate the SUSMP's requirements into redevelopment projects that will result in cleaner water faster for the City."

Implementing the method through a pilot program over the next four years, the City will work with developers in heavily urbanized areas to install larger treatment systems that will serve entire drainage areas rather than individual projects.

Essentially, through the SUSMP, the City is telling developers what it has been telling its residents: Control, Contain and Capture. Now, the City and developers will be able to Contain, Capture and Control a larger area of runoff than it would be required under the SUSMP.

Testifying at the public hearing was Councilmember Scott Peters, who told the board that the City's method is likely to result in "more clean water over a shorter period of time."

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